

Message Text

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P 110102Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. RE PARA 3, MOSCOW 7056, LETTER WAS RECEIVED BY ULTIMATE ADDRESSEE. A COUPLE OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WERE NOT HELD. I UNDERSTAND A VERY SMALL GROUP DISCUSSED INFORMALLY. A MEETING IS AGAIN SCHEDULED FOR END OF THIS WEEK. THERE APPARENTLY ARE DIFFERENCES. OUR MAN IS REPORTEDLY NEGATIVE. I UNDERSTAND THAT SOME NEW, PARTIAL MEASURES, NOT OF ACTIVE NATURE RECOMMENDED BY AMBASSADOR, BUT HAVING SOME GENERAL EFFECT, WERE BEGUN EXPERIMENTALLY THIS WEEKEND.

2. WE EXPECT TO HAVE ANSWER FOR YOU ON HOUSING AND CLOSURE OF SOVEMBASSY SITE BY APRIL 11. HOPE THAT WE WILL TAKE STEP ON APRIL 15 AS WE WARNED SOVIETS.

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3. YOUR INQUIRY TO US ABOUT MRS. VANCE'S SCHEDULE COINCIDED WITH AN INQUIRY FROM ABOVE ABOUT SUGGESTIONS WE MIGHT HAVE. THE WORD WE WERE GIVEN IS THAT HAVING VISITED MOSCOW ALREADY SEVERAL TIMES, SHE DOES NOT WANT TO DO THE USUAL SIGHTSEEING. ALSO SHE HAS MADE A DAY TRIP OUT OF MOSCOW "TO THE NORTH" (PRESUMABLY ZAGORSK) BUT WOULD BE INTERESTED IF THERE MIGHT

BE A 2 OR 3 HOUR TRIP TO THE EAST, SOUTH OR WEST OF THE CITY. I MENTIONED LENINGRAD, AND IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT SHE HAS BEEN THERE AND HAS SEEN THE HERMITAGE, BUT PERHAPS THERE WOULD BE OTHER THINGS SHE WOULD FIND INTERESTING. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT ON THE BASIS OF THESE INDICATIONS YOU SUBMIT SOME SUGGESTIONS THAT SHE MIGHT CHOOSE FROM.

4. RE DOBRYNIN'S COMMENTS TO THE AMBASSADOR CONCERNING THE VOA INTERVIEW, I WAS ASKED TO PASS ON TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT PRESS GUIDANCE WAS IN FACT PREPARED WHICH ACKNOWLEDGED ON "IF ASKED" BASIS THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS WERE NOT CLEARED BY THE DEPARTMENT, BUT THAT THE AMBASSADOR SUBMITTED THE TEXT AFTER IT WAS GIVEN. IN RESPONSE TO FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS, AGAIN ON "IF ASKED" BASIS, GUIDANCE WAS THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY AND THAT IT IS A MATTER OF THE AMBASSADOR'S OWN JUDGMENT WHETHER TO CLEAR PUBLIC REMARKS WITH DEPARTMENT IN ADVANCE. QUESTIONS DID NOT COME UP IN DEPARTMENT'S PRESS BRIEFING AND THEREFORE GUIDANCE WAS NOT USED.

VANCE

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